GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2396
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
DEVELOPING NEW MEDICINES
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to implement a suggestion of the Mashelkar Committee wherein it had recommended to the Government for creation of a fund for developing medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the diseases for which Indian scientists are engaged in the development of medicines;

(d) the stages at which the testing of such medicines are going on at present; and

(e) the details of initial characteristics thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) was created under the administrative control of Department of Science and Technology (DST) in January, 2004. While the Mashelkar Committee has recommended a sur-charge 1% on Maximum Retail Price of all formulations sold, the Government has decided to make a budgetary contribution of Rs.150 crores as corpus to this fund. The interest accrued on this corpus is used to assist R&D projects in modern and Indian Systems of Medicines jointly proposed by industry/academic institutions/laboratories and to create national facilities.

(c) Indian scientists are engaged in the development of medicines for several diseases such as malaria, filaria, cancer, ulcer, tuberculosis, leishmania, leucoderma, rheumatism, rheumatoid arthritis, diarrhoea, pancreatitis, gastritis, heart diseases, hypertension, diabetes, AIDS and vaccines for rotavirus, cholera, DNA rabies, tuberculosis, typhoid, HIV, malaria, etc.

(d) & (e) The leads obtained from the screening of new chemical entities, extracts from plants, traditional preparations, microbes and fungal sources are at different stages of discovery chain like pre-clinical and clinical trials. Drugs for tuberculosis and colorectal cancer are in advanced stage of development.